

Education & Training Vouchers

Education & Training Voucher Program

The Education and Training Voucher (ETV) Program provides funding to assist South Dakota foster youth with continued education and training after high school or a GED equivalent.

ETV funds are financial assistance that can aid you in reaching your goals and successful independence through education and training. If you are eligible for the program, you could receive up to \$5,000 a year to attend college or vocational school or to learn a trade.

ETV funds can be used to help pay for:

- Tuition and Fees
- Books and Supplies
- Room and Board
- Tools and Uniforms
- Tutoring
- Parking Permits
- Meal Plans
- Transportation Costs
- Employment-Related Needs
- Child Care
- Health Insurance
- Mental Health Services



Eligibility

Current and former foster youth eligible for Independent Living Program services are eligible for ETV funds. You must have a financial need in order to receive funding. Requirements include:

- A high school diploma, GED Certificate of Completion, or equivalent.
- ETV funds assist youth who are likely to remain in foster care until 18 years of age prepare for and enter post-secondary training and education institutions.
- Enrolled in or accepted to a post-secondary or vocational school program.
- ETV funds can be received by youth who are adopted from foster care after attaining age 16 or older.

Applying

To apply for ETV funds, you must complete an application. When applying,

all your school and training expenses will be considered. You must also submit the following when applying for funding:

- A one-page essay describing your qualifications for a scholarship based on academic performance, financial need, and your plan for your education.
- A copy of your acceptance letter from the college or vocational school.
- A cover letter from your social worker or adoptive parent.
- Stanford Achievement Test (SAT), American Collegiate Test (ACT), or Test of Adult Basic Education (TABE) test scores as required by the school.
- A copy of Free Application for Student Financial Assistance (FAFSA), if appropriate.
- “Cost of Attendance” completed and signed by the financial aid officer.

If approved for funding, you must reapply every semester. Requirements include:

- A transcript of prior semester's grades.
- At least a 2.0 grade point average.
- A letter describing how the money was used and why you need financial assistance to continue.

For an Application or More Information

The application to apply for ETV funding
is available online at:

www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram

For more information, contact your nearest
Community Resource Person listed below.

Volunteers of America, Dakotas

PO Box 603, Plankinton, SD 57368

Contact Don Jones at: (605) 770-8038

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The ETV Program is a service
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You Can Visit Us Online at:

www.dss.sd.gov/cps/independentlivingprogram

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of Child Protection Services



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*Financial Assistance for
Foster Youth for Post-Secondary
Education and Training*

